

Garner



2013

2013-14 Edition

GUIDE TO GARNER

north carolina



Your essential
source for
information about
the Triangle's
great place to live,
work and raise
a family



GARNER

A Great Place to Be®

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Mayor Ronnie Williams

Dear citizens,

It is an honor to greet you in this inaugural edition of the Guide to Garner. I hope you find this publication to be an instructive overview of your town—its accomplishments, its special events and amenities, its municipal government and the services it provides.

I am so proud to serve as the mayor of this great town, one whose character, quality of life and other wonderful attributes are being discovered throughout the region, state and, indeed, across the nation. What a thrill it was to recently be designated one of 10 All-America Cities for 2013. This award is recognition of all the work and innovative initiatives launched by you, our citizens. I am proud to say that the Town government has been able to partner in some of these now nationally recognized projects.

As Garner continues to evolve, I know that our citizens will identify new projects to tackle that will make Garner a better place to live, work and raise a family. I have unlimited confidence in the problem-solving ability of our citizens, businesses, civic groups and faith community. I want you to know that Garner's Town government—both its elected officials and staff—stand ready to assist in any way we can.

The All-America City award is a validation of all that we as a community have achieved in recent years. I look forward with great anticipation to what we can achieve together in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Ronnie Williams

STAY CONNECTED TO YOUR TOWN



TELEVISION/VIDEO

Watch Town of Garner television productions on GTV 11 (channel 11 on Time Warner; channel 99 on AT&T U-verse) and on demand on the garnernc.gov homepage.



WEB

Find what you need to know about the Town of Garner at garnernc.gov.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow the Town on Facebook (facebook.com/TownofGarner) and Twitter (@TownofGarner). Also look for our videos on YouTube.



E-NEWSLETTER AND E-MAIL NEWS ALERTS

Sign up for the Town's free monthly electronic newsletter as well as special events announcements and important news alerts at garnernc.gov/Publications/Newsletters.aspx.



MOBILE PHONE APP

Stay informed and send service requests to the Town by getting our free app (search for "garner info" where you buy and download apps).

Cover photo: Visitors look at memorial bricks at the Garner Veterans Memorial at Lake Benson Park before the dedication ceremony on May 4, 2013. For more information about the memorial, including how to purchase a memorial brick, visit garnerveteransmemorial.org. Photo by Rob Smith. Special thanks to Smith, Ken Hall, Jon Shearin and Rick Mercier for the photos in this publication.

AWARDS AND MILESTONES

Here is a summary of major accomplishments for the Town of Garner in fiscal year 2012-13:

JULY

The **Garner Police Department** implements its Data-Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS), an operational model using integration of location-based crime and traffic data to establish effective and efficient methods for deploying law enforcement and other resources.

AUGUST

The Town's **Finance Department** earns the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for the 23rd consecutive year for its comprehensive annual financial report. The certificate is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

SEPTEMBER

Garner Police Department crime analyst **Lauren Norman** is awarded a second-place prize for a threat assessment bulletin by the International Association of Crime Analysts.

OCTOBER

The 92-bed **Strategic Behavioral Health** center in Garner's Greenfield South Business Park holds its ribbon cutting and community open house. The acute-care center for youth struggling with severe mental-health issues and substance abuse will bring 250 jobs and \$12 million in new investment to Garner.

NOVEMBER

Over 150 people attend groundbreaking for **Garner Veterans Memorial** at Lake Benson Park. The \$500,000 project was made possible by donations large and small from citizens, civic groups, local businesses and government entities including the Town of Garner and Wake County.

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada presents the **Finance Department** with the association's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the Town's FY2012-13 budget document. It was the third consecutive year that the department earned the award.

DECEMBER

A summer youth theater camp offered by the **Towne Players of Garner** and Town wins statewide award from the North Carolina Recreation and Park Association. It is the second consecutive year that the Town wins the honor for its collaborative efforts with citizens and organizations to enhance the performing arts in the community.

JANUARY

Mayor Ronnie Williams is chosen to head the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's (CAMPO) governing body, the Transportation Advisory Committee. CAMPO is responsible for an annual work program and a 20-year forecast of projects and programs. Its work involves making funding recommendations for transportation projects in its planning area, which includes Wake County and parts of Johnston, Franklin, Harnett and Granville counties. The organization also has veto power over projects.

Town receives the Rising Star Award from the North Carolina Association of Festivals and Events for **Trick-or-Treat the Trails** at White Deer Park.

FEBRUARY

Puerto Rico-based **UltraPure Systems, Inc.**, which builds and installs equipment for the biotech and pharmaceutical industries, announces it will open an office and fabrication facility in Garner's Greenfield North Business Park. The location will become the firm's headquarters for its North American operations. The announcement comes on the heels of news that **DataChambers** will open a facility in Garner. The company will bring millions of dollars of new investment.

MARCH

Garner voters overwhelmingly approve ballot questions on street and sidewalk improvements bonds, parks and recreational bonds, redevelopment bonds and public safety and services facilities bonds in a **March 12 special election**.

The Town's **Economic Development Department** wins three awards in the North Carolina City and County Communicators 2013 Excellence in Communications competition.

APRIL

The **Police Department's K9 units** win special honors in numerous categories such as apprehension, article search and obedience and as a team win first place overall in statewide competition.

The National Civic League names Garner an **All-America City finalist**—one of only 20 communities.

MAY

Hundreds attend the dedication of the **Garner Veterans Memorial** on May 4 and a wreath-laying ceremony the previous evening.

The **Garner Revitalization Association** is designated an accredited National Main Street Program for meeting commercial district revitalization performance standards set by the National Trust Main Street Center for the third consecutive year.

JUNE

The National Civic League selects Garner as an **All-America City** for 2013. The Town is one of only 10 localities nationwide to earn the honor, known as the Nobel Prize of civic accomplishment. Garner was recognized by Wake County Commissioners and the state Senate and House of Representatives for winning the coveted award. The three citizen-driven projects featured in Garner's All-America City campaign were the Garner Veterans Memorial, Community of Hope and the emerging performing arts scene in town.

GARNER: A GREAT PLACE TO BE



The new Garner Veterans Memorial provides the perfect setting for celebrating our nation's independence at Lake Benson Park. The memorial, which was formally dedicated in May 2013, was a citizen-driven initiative that was prominently featured in Garner's All-America City campaign.

Your All-America City

National honor confirms what Garner residents have known all along

It has been said that Garner is a community of neighbors, and that description indeed does seem to capture the spirit of this fast-growing but down-to-earth town on the southeast corner of the vibrant Research Triangle region.

Folks grow up and opt to put down their roots here just like their parents did—or they return after going away to school or begin their careers. Lots of others these days are newcomers to Garner, but they're still warmly welcomed into this community of neighbors. Despite its rapid growth (Garner's population has burgeoned by nearly 50



The Garner Senior Center offers a range of activities and programs for citizens of all ages.

percent since 2000), this town emits a congenial vibe that balances tradition with an open-minded approach to positive change. It's what makes Garner

special among its peer communities in the Triangle and beyond.

Maybe that's why the National Civic League named Garner an All-America City in June 2013.

Garner's a place that provides opportunities for people of all ages to grow and reach their full potential.

The Town's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department sponsors a full slate of activities and programming that are listed in a brochure sent to Garner households two times a year. Whether it's preschool athlet-

GARNER: A GREAT PLACE TO BE

ics at Avery Street Recreation Center or activities for older citizens at the Garner Senior Center, in Garner you'll find plenty to do to keep you living a healthy, active life.

Garner recognizes the importance of the performing and cultural arts—not only as a potential economic driver but as being key to citizens' intellectual, spiritual and social development. That explains the citizen-led movement in the 1990s to save the historic building that now houses Garner Performing Arts Center. It also explains the wealth of arts programming at our fantastic venue (see “Garner’s Cultural Hub” sidebar on this page).

Garner is an increasingly diverse community that has managed its growth with a view toward ensuring quality and sustainability. The Town's leaders have made fiscal responsibility a core tenet, and that commitment has put Garner in an enviable position to grow in the coming years without the threat of financial woes or major new taxes.

Garner also has taken important strides toward promoting ecological sustainability. The Town's commitment to setting aside 160 acres of passive parkland in the heart of the community at White Deer and Lake Benson parks is impressive for a community the size of Garner. The Nature Center at White Deer Park (2400 Aversboro Road, (919) 661-6982) earned LEED gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council because of its environmentally friendly design and construction features (e.g. recycled building materials, rain cisterns and use of available natural light). The center also offers ecological education for children and adults year round (to learn about programs or to register for one, visit garnernc.gov/Departments/Parks and Recreation/Default.aspx).

Garner's schools assure a safe, stimulating environment for young people.

Please see Your Town
on page 6



A summer youth theater camp offered by the Towne Players of Garner and Garner's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department culminates each August in an elaborate production.

Garner's Cultural Hub

The Garner Performing Arts Center (742 W. Garner Road), funded by the Town of Garner and operated under the Town's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department, has emerged not only as the epicenter of Garner's cultural scene but as a place where people from around the Triangle come to enjoy premier entertainment.

The **Broadway Voices** series, which brings top Broadway talent to GPAC for a fraction of the price of a ticket in New York City, is one of GPAC's top draws. The series is the result of a collaboration involving the Garner Chamber of Commerce (garnerchamber.com), local businesses and arts advocates and the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department.

GPAC has also launched the **It's Showtime!** series, which brings national acts to Garner. The series brings comedians, illusionists and musicians representing a range of genres to GPAC. The series has also incorporated children's programs and a focus on black history during February.

GPAC is also home to the acclaimed **Towne Players of Garner**, a community theater group that

performs several productions per year—including a show with a cast of young people who have participated in a summer theater camp offered by the Towne Players and the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department. The camp program won a prestigious statewide award in 2012 (Broadway Voices won it the previous year) and was featured in Garner's All-America City campaign (as was Broadway Voices). The camp has established a scholarship program to make it accessible to young people of all socioeconomic backgrounds. For more information, visit towneplayers.org or call (919) 661-4602.

Then there's the beloved **Showcase of Talent**, GPAC's annual community talent show held each February that in the past has featured American Idol and country music star Scotty McCreery as well as former Miss North Carolinas Arlie Honeycutt and Dana Stephenson. And from May through September, the back lawn of GPAC is home to the Garner Revitalization Association's free Music off Main downtown concert series.

For more information about GPAC, or to order tickets for a show, visit garnerperformingartscenter.com.

GARNER: A GREAT PLACE TO BE

Your Town

continued from page 5

In Garner, students can start in the rigorous international baccalaureate program in elementary school and continue on that track through high school. Garner Magnet High School, which offers the IB program, has been honored by U.S. News & World Report two consecutive years for its excellence.

Garner is also known for its patriotic spirit and its enduring respect for those who have made sacrifices, most notably our veterans (see “Honoring Our Veterans” sidebar on this page).

The friendly business environment in Garner is laying the foundations for its long-term prosperity. The recent opening of the Strategic Behavioral Health center in Greenfield South Business Park; the opening in August 2013 of the WakeMed healthplex on U.S. 70; planning for redevelopment of the former ConAgra site in



The award-winning White Deer Park provides important natural habitat to numerous flora and fauna in a suburban setting. These rescued and rehabilitated barred owls were released back into the wild at the park in August 2012. The National Wildlife Federation has designated the park as a certified wildlife habitat.

east Garner; and opportunities for industrial and commercial growth in various locations around town point to a bright future for Garner and its citizens.

Garner holds on to that hometown feel and community spirit that make it so special. Yet it's also a place where folks have their eyes set on the future. Garner is ... an All-America City.



The Garner Veterans Memorial is a place of peace and reflection for those who served.

Honoring Our Veterans

The **Garner Veterans Memorial**—a central piece of the town's successful All-America City campaign—is the quintessential citizen-driven project. As organizers have pointed out repeatedly, nearly everyone in Garner has contributed to this ambitious half-million-dollar memorial in one way or another, whether by purchasing a memorial brick or bench, by making a generous individual contribution or by simply purchasing food at a civic group fundraiser.

The memorial's location in Lake Benson Park (921 Buffalo Road) guarantees its central place in the civic life of this community. It is already established as an oasis where veterans and their families find peace and solace. Now

that the memorial has been dedicated, the next steps involve making it a destination for visitors in the region and ensuring that its powerful educational potential is fully realized, especially by incorporating it into curricula for area students.

The memorial, with its panels honoring the fallen, its historical content and its engaging artwork, will no doubt withstand the test of time and will stand in perpetuity as a fitting tribute to those who were willing to make the ultimate sacrifice.

For more information about the memorial, including how to buy a memorial brick in honor of a veteran, visit garnerveteransmemorial.org.

GARNER: ONE OF AMERICA'S BEST



Garner's All-America City delegation poses in Denver on June 15, 2013, after making its presentation to National Civic League judges. The next day, the league would announce that Garner had been selected as one of 10 All-America Cities for 2013.

What Does Award Mean?

Prestigious National Recognition Underscores Town's Community Spirit

The All-America City award has been dubbed the "Nobel Prize of civic accomplishment"—but what does it really signify about a town?

The award goes to localities that demonstrate innovation, inclusiveness and cross-sector collaborations to solve pressing problems. The honor is meant to spotlight what citizens, not government, are doing to tackle challenges and open up opportunities in their communities, though partnerships with local and regional governments are also celebrated.

Considered in this light, it's easy to see why Garner was selected as an All-America City. As Mayor Ronnie Williams said after Garner was announced an award winner, "This award

validates all of the great work that citizens, nonprofit groups, the faith community and local businesses are doing in Garner."

Garner's All-America City campaign highlighted citizen-led efforts 1) to build the Garner Veterans Memorial; 2) to create and sustain Community of Hope's after-school program, food pantry and other ministries; and 3) to boost the performing arts scene at Garner Performing Arts Center.

Garner's All-America City team also cited other citizen-led efforts such as the Meals on Wheels program at Garner Senior Center, the town's annual Relay for Life event at Lake Benson Park and grassroots activism to save Garner from the Triangle Expressway Southeast Extension and block closure

of the Wake County Library's Southeast Regional Branch in Garner.

A delegation of 44 citizens and Town officials and staff traveled to Denver in June 2013 to compete to win the award. Garner was one of 20 finalists vying for the honor in the Mile High City.

Garner is the first locality in the Triangle to win the All-America City award since Durham in 1982-83. The last Wake County municipality to earn the award was Raleigh in 1974-75.

The All-America City program is administered by the Denver-based National Civic League. For more information about Garner's All-America City recognition and campaign, visit garnernc.gov/garneraac.aspx and allamericacityaward.com.

GARNER'S SIGNATURE SPECIAL EVENTS

GROUNDHOG DAY AT WHITE DEER PARK

Move over Punxsutawney Phil, Sir Walter Wally and other furry faux forecasters—Garner's got the real deal in Mortimer. Join Mortimer and other critters from the nonprofit group CLAWS as we celebrate Groundhog Day at White Deer Park (2400 Aversboro Road) with plenty of activities for kids and families. At noon, Mortimer reveals his long-range weather prediction to the mayor.



SPRING EGGSTRAVAGANZA

When spring arrives, Garner celebrates at its annual Spring Eggstravaganza on a Saturday at Lake Benson Park (921 Buffalo Road). There's entertainment, live music, nature activities, games, inflatables, arts and crafts, food vendors and, of course, the Town's annual egg hunt. Be sure to bring a camera and get a picture with the Bunny before the egg hunt.

MUSIC OFF MAIN DOWNTOWN CONCERTS

The Town and the Garner Revitalization Association put on the free Music off Main Downtown Concert Series May through September. The shows are on selected Thursday evenings 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the back lawn of Garner Performing Arts Center (125 Avery St.). The popular concert series also now includes Market off Main, which gives local artists, artisans and others the opportunity to display and sell their works at the shows.



JULY 3 INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Local residents as well as visitors from across the region celebrate our nation's birthday at Lake Benson Park (921 Buffalo Road) at Garner's award-winning annual Independence Day Celebration on July 3. Enjoy live entertainment (which historically has included the North Carolina Symphony), children's activities, inflatables and local nonprofit groups selling a variety of food and other refreshments. The evening concludes with a spectacular fireworks show.

TRICK-OR-TREAT THE TRAILS

In 2012, the Town of Garner Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department introduced this new special event—a fun, safe, family-friendly opportunity for little ghosts and goblins to trick-or-treat on the beautiful trails at White Deer Park (2400 Aversboro Road). The event was so successful that it won a statewide award. Come on out and enjoy Halloween with friends and local businesses.



LIGHT UP MAIN/CHRISTMAS PARADE

In early December, Garner's downtown is transformed into a holiday wonderland during the annual Light Up Main festival (featuring the annual tree-lighting ceremony) on Garner's Main Street. Local entertainment livens up the evening, and children have the chance to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. The next morning, Garner comes together for its annual Christmas Parade in downtown.

GUIDE TO TOWN SERVICES

GENERAL INFORMATION

Most administrative offices are housed in the Town Hall buildings at 900 Seventh Ave. Office hours are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Town's website is at garnernc.gov. The Code of Ordinances and other important documents can be found at garnernc.gov/Publications/Default.aspx.

TOWN CLERK

All official Town records, including minutes of Town Council meetings, are kept by the town clerk. Information about actions of the Council can be obtained by contacting the town clerk's office at (919) 773-4406 or by visiting garnernc.gov. Requests to place items on the Council agenda should be directed to the town clerk.

POLICE

Garner maintains a nationally accredited Police Department. The department offers a wide variety of community services, including the Police Activities/Athletics League (garnerpaal.org). The department's current strategic plan can be viewed at garnernc.gov/Publications/Police/GPDStrategicPlan.pdf. For more information, visit garnerpd.org or call the department's non-emergency line at (919) 772-8810. Dial 911 to report a crime or request assistance.

Questions about **animal control** can be directed to the department's non-emergency line. Nuisance reports may be made by calling 911.

FIRE AND RESCUE

Garner Volunteer Fire-Rescue, Inc., provides fire and rescue services in town. The entity is separate from the Town government but receives funding from the Town. Wake County EMS provides paramedic services. Dial 911 to receive emergency services.

SOLID WASTE PICKUP

The Town of Garner provides a comprehensive solid waste management program, including weekly curbside garbage collection; weekly curbside trash, yard waste and bulky waste

collections; biweekly curbside and drop-off recycling programs; and periodic "unprepared" trash and yard waste collections. For more information about these services, visit garnernc.gov/departments/public works or call Public Works at (919) 772-7600 during regular business hours.

PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department coordinates a wide variety of programs for all age groups. Cultural, artistic, social, recreational and athletic programs are offered throughout the year. The department also works closely with other not-for-profit groups to support recreational activities. Call (919) 773-4442 or visit garnernc.gov/departments/parks and recreation for more information on any of the department's programs or facilities (including rentals) or for contact information for other recreational service providers. Current and upcoming programs and events are detailed in a brochure mailed to all Town residents two times a year.

For more information on senior activities, call the **Garner Senior Center** (205 E. Garner Road) at (919) 779-0122. **Garner Performing Arts Center** (742 W. Garner Road) hosts many outstanding performances and events. Call (919) 661-4602 or visit garnerperformingartscenter.com for more information.

The Town has over 350 acres of recreational and passive parkland, including award-winning **White Deer Park** (2400 Aversboro Road, (919) 661-6982), which features a LEED Gold-certified **Nature Center**, and **Lake Benson Park** (921 Buffalo Road, (919) 661-6982), site of the **Garner Veterans Memorial**.

PLANNING

The Town's Planning Department administers and enforces zoning and other land-use requirements inside Town limits as well as in Garner's extraterritorial jurisdiction. The department reviews all site plans, subdivision

requests and rezoning applications. It also is responsible for maintaining a comprehensive plan of growth for the Town. All questions, review requirements and applications should be directed to the Planning Department, located in building B at Town Hall, or by calling the department at (919) 773-4449.

BUILDING INSPECTIONS

The Inspections Department administers building code regulations. Permits are required for general construction, electrical, plumbing, insulation and mechanical work. Permits are also required for placement of manufactured or modular housing. Building inspectors will check plans for proposed buildings to assure code compliance. Before starting construction or repairs, contact the Inspections Department by visiting in person in building B at Town Hall or by calling (919) 773-4433.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resources Department is responsible, among other things, for recruitment and selection of Town of Garner staff. To learn about employment opportunities with the Town and to apply for a position, visit garnernc.gov/jobs.

UTILITIES

The Town does not directly provide utilities. Water/wastewater service is provided by City of Raleigh Public Utilities (raleighnc.gov, (919) 890-3245), electricity service by Duke Energy Progress (duke-energy.com, (919) 508-5400) and natural gas service by PSNC Energy (psncenergy.com, (877) 776-2427).

TAX COLLECTIONS

Garner residents are required to list all personal and real property with the Wake County tax office during January of each year. Taxes may be paid in the Town's Finance office in building A of Town Hall or by mail to the Wake County Revenue Department, P.O. Box 580084, Charlotte, NC 28258-0084. Questions can be directed to the Town's Finance office at (919) 773-4408.

YOUR TOWN GOVERNMENT



FORM OF GOVERNMENT

The Town of Garner operates under the council-manager form of government.

ELECTION PROCESS

Regular municipal elections are held in Town every two years in odd-numbered years and are conducted in accordance with the uniform municipal election laws of the state of North Carolina. The mayor and members of Council are elected according to a nonpartisan election system. This system has no official parties and results in a single winning vote.

GOVERNING BODY

The mayor and Town Council serve as the governing body of the Town. The mayor and Council may exercise all municipal powers and are charged with the general government of the Town.

MAYOR

The mayor is elected by voters of the Town for a four-year term. The mayor is the official head of the Town government and presides at all meetings of the Town Council. The mayor votes on matters before the Council only to break a tie.

TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Council is composed of five members, each of whom is elected to a four-year term. There are no term limits.

MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

The Town Council appoints one of its

members to act as **mayor pro tempore**.

The mayor pro tempore performs the duties of the mayor in the mayor's absence or inability to serve. The mayor pro tempore has no fixed term of office but serves in such capacity at the pleasure of the remaining Council members.

TOWN COUNCIL VOTES

Official approval of the Town Council is by majority vote, provided that a quorum—which is a majority of the full membership of the Council—is present. Unless a Council member states that s/he is not voting, his/her silence is recorded as an affirmative vote.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Town Council has regular meetings on the first Monday and on the Tuesday following the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Town Hall, building B, 900 Seventh Ave. These meetings are videotaped and later broadcast on the Town's public, educational and governmental channel, GTV11, and can be viewed on demand on the Town's website, garnernc.gov.

The Council holds work sessions on the last Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m., also in the Council Chambers. In addition, special meetings of the Council may be called.

Agendas for all meetings are posted on the Town's website, garnernc.gov. Minutes of all meetings are kept and

recorded by the town clerk or deputy town clerk. The minutes are presented to the Council for approval at the following regular meeting. The minutes, as well as audio of meetings, are also available on garnernc.gov.

The Council receives public comments at the beginning of both regular meetings. Any person wishing to speak may sign in with the town clerk prior to the beginning of the meeting or submit a request in writing, stating their name, address and purpose for appearing before the Council.

TOWN MANAGER

The Town Council appoints a town manager, who is the administrative head of the Town government and is responsive to the Council for the proper administration of the affairs of the Town.

ADVISORY BODIES

The Town government is assisted by volunteer citizen advisory boards, commissions and committees. These bodies include the Planning Commission; the Board of Adjustment; the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Committee and the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee. To learn more about these bodies, or to download an application to join one of them, visit garnernc.gov/Government/Boards.aspx. Please contact the deputy town clerk for more information by calling (919) 773-4456.

GARNER'S STRATEGIC PLANS

Garner's long-term growth and development are guided by plans that, in many cases, were years in the making and that have included significant citizen input. Here is a summary of the key documents that will shape Garner's future for many years to come:

- The **ConAgra Redevelopment Study**, completed in February 2012, was commissioned by the non-profit Garner Economic Development Corporation (GEDC), which received the former ConAgra property from the company in 2011 and is overseeing redevelopment of the site. The GEDC hired the economic development consulting firm Sanford Holshouser to conduct the redevelopment study, which included significant public input from hundreds of citizens at a public open-house meeting. In addition, the ConAgra Redevelopment Advisory Board, composed of local citizens and business leaders, is assisting the GEDC in its efforts.

The goals established for the redevelopment project are wages equal to or greater than the average Wake County wage, investment equal to or greater than ConAgra's investment (\$55 million at time of plant closure) and at least 440 jobs (the number employed at time of plant closure). To read or download the full study and other documents related to the redevelopment project, visit garnernc.gov/Departments/EconomicDevelopment/ConAgra.aspx.

- The Town's **Streetscape Master Plan**, adopted in November 2010, focuses on the downtown core area and its surroundings. A citizen steering committee and public meetings—as well as a special website for dissemination and gathering of information—ensured considerable public partici-



Citizens enjoy the foot bridge on the South Garner Greenway at a ribbon-cutting event in October 2011. The greenway, which connects Timber Drive sidewalks to White Deer Park, fits within the framework established by the Town's Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Greenways Master Plan.

pation in creation of the plan. The plan can be read and downloaded at [garnernc.gov/Publications/Planning/Streetscape Master Plan Full_Report.pdf](http://garnernc.gov/Publications/Planning/StreetscapeMasterPlanFull_Report.pdf).

- Garner's updated **Comprehensive Transportation Plan**, adopted in October 2010, seeks to provide safe and efficient travel options for automobile, bicycle and public transit users as well as pedestrians. The plan balances transportation needs with land-use development patterns and points to ways to take advantage of regional and local partnerships where possible. The plan can be read and downloaded at garnernc.gov/Publications/Planning/TransPlanFinalOct2010.pdf.
- The **Historic Downtown Garner Plan**, adopted in April 2010, is a market-driven plan for downtown revitalization. Following the direction of the North Garner Plan, the Town of Garner and the Garner Revitalization Association worked together to create the redevelopment action plan for downtown based on a detailed market analysis and community-based design charette. In furtherance of the plan, Garner voters in March 2013 approved up to \$2 million in Redevelopment Bonds (see page 12) that can be used for stormwater infrastructure

improvements and land acquisition. The plan can be read and downloaded at downtowngarner.com/HistoricDowntownGarnerMasterPlan.htm.

- The Town's **Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Greenways Master Plan**, adopted in June 2007, was created to serve as a guide for future parks and recreation facility and program expansion. The document is also intended to be a tool to seek alternative funding sources for projects. The plan can be read and downloaded at [garnernc.gov/Publications/Parks and Recreation/PR_MasterPlan2007.pdf](http://garnernc.gov/Publications/ParksandRecreation/PR_MasterPlan2007.pdf).
- Garner's **Comprehensive Growth Plan**, updated in September 2006, continues to provide the long-range vision for land development and redevelopment opportunities and for community infrastructure decisions. The plan is an update of the previous comprehensive plan, which was adopted in 1989. The plan can be read and downloaded at [garnernc.gov/Publications/Planning/Comprehensive Growth Plan document.pdf](http://garnernc.gov/Publications/Planning/ComprehensiveGrowthPlandocument.pdf).

To request a hard copy of any of these documents, please contact the Town's public information officer at (919) 773-4418 or by email at garnerpio@garnernc.gov.

GARNER BOND PROGRAM

On March 12, 2013, Garner voters charted an ambitious course for the town's future by strongly supporting a \$35.7 million bond program that will reshape Garner dramatically over the next several years.

Voters overwhelmingly approved four bond referendums:

- Street and Sidewalk Improvement Bonds** totaling up to \$14.566 million, for projects such as sidewalk improvements around town including along Benson Road and Main Street; improvements to Montague Street, New Rand Road and Purvis Street including land acquisition; neighborhood improvements in various parts of town; Main Street streetscape improvements; road improvements at the Benson and Garner roads intersection; improvements to Jessup Drive at U.S. 70; and widening of U.S. 70 and landscaping and lighting at various locations between Morris Drive and New Rand Road. Voters approved this referendum 73.3 percent to 26.7 percent.
- Parks and Recreational Bonds** totaling up to \$7.15 million, for projects including a new indoor recreation center; park enhancements; greenways; addition of lighted and covered walkways from Garner Performing Arts Center (GPAC) to a new parking lot; property acquisition for GPAC expansion; and an improved or developed parking lot on Garner Road. Voters approved this referendum 70.2 percent to 29.8 percent.
- Redevelopment Bonds** totaling up to \$2 million, for projects including stormwater infrastructure improvements and land acquisition in furtherance of the Historic Downtown Garner Plan. Voters approved this referendum 66.5 percent to 33.5 percent.



Two of the biggest bond-related projects that citizens will see completed in the next several years are a new police station and a new or renovated Town Hall. The police station will be located in a rehabilitated Town-owned building at 912 Seventh Ave. Town Hall will remain at 900 Seventh Ave.

- Public Safety and Services Facilities Bonds** totaling up to \$12 million, for a new police station and a renovated or new Town Hall. Voters approved this referendum 74.7 percent to 25.3 percent.

These projects are expected to be completed within seven years. They will be budgeted through capital project funds, which are multi-year funds that account for expenditures related to the bonds until the projects are completed.

Garner will issue bonds (debt) to pay for these projects in increments over time. Spreading out the cost makes the bonds affordable without forcing major tax increases. As the Town issues the bonds, it will account for repayment of the debt through its General Fund. Based on current projections, the Town will issue debt in 2014, and it will start being repaid in fiscal year 2014-15.

For more information on the 2013 bond program, visit garnernc.gov/garnerbonds.

YOUR TAX DOLLARS

Where the money comes from ...



60%

Property taxes

This is the only source of significant revenue the Town can change.

30%

Sales taxes and revenues from state

Some of these funds may be restricted in their use (only for certain programs), while others may be used for any purpose.

10%

User fees and other smaller sources of revenue

Includes parks, rec and cultural programming fees, building permit fees and interest income.

The FY2013-14 general fund budget is \$25.76 million. Budget documents are at garnernc.gov/Departments/Finance/Default.aspx or can be requested by calling (919) 773-4418 or emailing garnerpio@garnernc.gov.

Where the money goes ...



38%

Public safety

Includes police, inspections and Town's share of costs for Garner Volunteer Fire-Rescue, Inc.

33%

General government services

Includes administration, finance, planning, engineering and building and grounds maintenance.

16%

Public Works

Includes road maintenance and solid waste services.

7%

Parks, recreation and cultural programming

Some of these costs are offset by user fees.

6%
Repayment of existing debt

GARNER BY THE NUMBERS

Garner has grown by leaps and bounds in recent decades but has retained its small-town charm, its strong sense of community and its most beautiful open spaces. Below are a few figures that paint a picture of Garner (please see garnernc.gov for more demographic and other data):

POPULATION

1990: 15,111
2000: 17,757
July 2013: 26,124

Percent increase since 2000: 47
Percent increase since 1990: 73

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD/FAMILY SIZE

Average household: 2.49 persons
Average family: 3.03 persons

RACIAL/ETHNIC DATA

(due to overlap of categories,
percentages do not add up to 100)

Caucasian: 58 percent
African-American: 33 percent
Hispanic: 10 percent

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Percent of Garner residents 25 or older who
have a bachelor's or more advanced degree: 35

MEDIAN AGE

35.4 years old

INCOME

Median household: \$60,894
Median family: \$73,757

SOURCES: U.S. Census Bureau,
Town of Garner Planning Department

LAND AREA

About 15 square miles

OPEN SPACE

About 350 acres of parkland, including
160 acres of passive parkland in White Deer
and Lake Benson parks.



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency services: 911

Garner Police Department (non-emergency):
(919) 772-8810

Garner Fire Department (non-emergency):
(919) 772-1550

Garner Town Hall: (919) 772-4688
(garnernc.gov)

Garner Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources:
(919) 773-4442

Garner Performing Arts Center: (919) 661-4602
(garnerperformingartscenter.com)

Garner Senior Center: (919) 779-0122

White Deer Park (activities/rentals): (919) 661-6982

Avery Street Recreation Center: (919) 662-5051

Public Information Officer: (919) 773-4418

Administration/Town manager's office: (919) 773-4407

Mayor's office: (919) 773-4404

Town clerk's office: (919) 773-4406

Economic Development: (919) 773-4405

Garner Chamber of Commerce: (919) 772-6440
(garnerchamber.com)

Wake County Public School System: (919) 431-7400
(wcpss.net)

Water/wastewater billing (Raleigh Public Utilities): (919) 890-3245
(raleighnc.gov)

Water/wastewater emergencies (nights, weekends, holidays): (919) 829-1930

Wake County Animal Shelter: (919) 212-PETS (7387)
(wakegov.com/pets/Pages/default.aspx)

Duke Energy (electricity): (919) 508-5400
(duke-energy.com)

PSNC Energy (natural gas): (877) 776-2427
(psncenergy.com)

Public Works (roads, solid waste, recycling):
(919) 772-7600

Planning and Zoning: (919) 773-4449

Building Inspections: (919) 773-4433

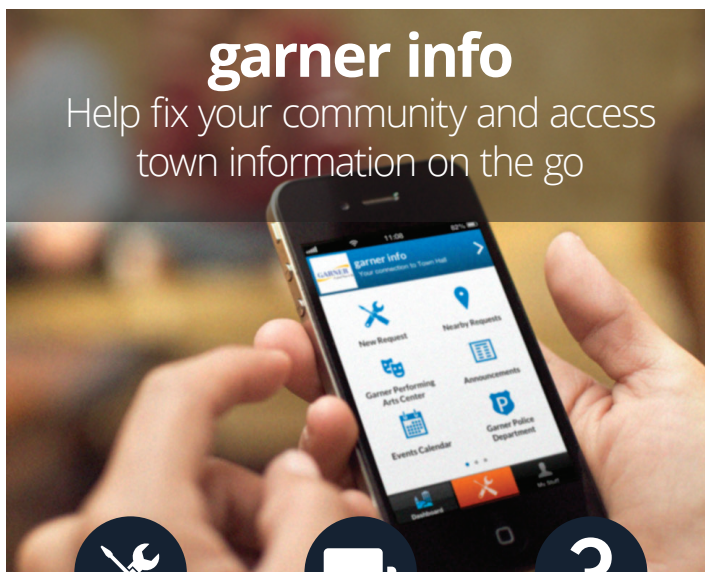
Engineering: (919) 773-4425

Finance/payments: (919) 773-4408

Human Resources: (919) 773-4415
(garnernc.gov/jobs)

Neighborhood improvement: (919) 773-4446

Garner Revitalization Association/Main Street Program: (919) 773-4402
(downtowngarner.com)



Report Issues



Get Notifications



Town Information

BlackBerry
<http://goo.gl/A7TZw>

iPhone
<http://goo.gl/6d1BI>

Android
<http://goo.gl/i5eq3>



You can also report issues online at
garnernc.gov or text (617) 500-3111.

This app is brought to you by the Town of Garner. POWERED BY  PUBLICSTUFF



Did you know that the Town Council's regular meetings are broadcast on **Garner GTV11** (channel 11 on Time Warner, 99 on AT&T U-verse) **Thursdays and Saturdays at 1 a.m., 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.?**



Town of Garner
900 Seventh Ave.
Garner, NC 27529



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(facebook.com/TownofGarner)
and Twitter (@TownofGarner).



Visit us on the
Web at garnernc.gov.

INTRODUCING OUR SEVENTH FULL-SERVICE 24/7 EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

WAKEMED GARNER HEALTHPLEX



OPENING AUGUST 19
400 U.S. Highway 70 East, Garner



24/7 full-service emergency care
Laboratory
Imaging services
Physician offices (opening September 2013):
Wake Specialty Physicians – Garner Primary Care
WakeMed Specialty Physicians – Ear, Nose & Throat –
Head & Neck Surgery
WakeMed Faculty Physicians – Carolina Cardiology